

--Summary of the Invention--

Page 5, at line 28, before the paragraph beginning "Other advantages...", insert the following heading at the left hand margin:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--;

Page 6, line 17, before the paragraph beginning "Fig. 1...", insert the following heading at the left hand margin:

--Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s) --;

Page 18, after the last paragraph ending "...quasi-UMA machine.", insert the following new paragraph:

--While this invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the preferred embodiments of the invention as set forth herein, are intended to be illustrative, not limiting. Various changes may be made without departing from the true spirit and full scope of the invention as set forth herein and defined in the claims—

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 in their entirety and without prejudice and add the following new claims:

- 1 --13. A modular interconnection architecture for an expandable
- 2 multiprocessor machine, based on a virtual bus hierarchy, comprising a given number
- 3 of multiprocessor modules (QPi) , each module including a plurality of processors and
- 4 associated cache memories organized into nodes (Nj) and distributed on at least two
- 5 interconnection levels: a first interconnection level (MI) corresponding to
- 6 interconnection of the multiprocessor modules (QPi) within a node (Nj), and a second
- 7 interconnection level (SI) corresponding to the interconnection of the nodes (Nj) with
- 8 one another, the first interconnection level (MI) comprising connection agents (NCSi)
- 9 connecting the multiprocessor modules (QPi) to one another and handling the